

Writing was on the wall

THE SEEDS of Tuesday night's humiliation in Bristol were sewn at Griffin Park on Saturday. Lennie Lawrence was as angry as Town fans after seeing the abject surrender of three points - the defence went through an unbelievably bad patch in the last ten minutes, when defeat was

BRENTFORD 3 LUTON TOWN 2

snatched from the jaws of a 2-1 lead.

Before then the Town looked the classier footballers, but Brentford's late biff and bang assault left them reeling.

David Oldfield, lively and positive, took over leadership of the Town attack on a day when Kim Grant rarely got into the game. After Tony Thorpe converted a penalty won by one of Oldfield's attacking thrusts the Town looked good for a spell early in the second half.

An elementary failure to close down or tackle saw Steve Davis embarrassed as Carl Asaba equalised, but Ceri Hughes restored the lead with a deflected shot with 22 minutes to go.

Brentford had one quality the Town lacked: fierce determination and self-belief, and once they had equalised through Jamie Bates the Town went meekly to their fate. Robert Taylor headed the winner two minutes from time.

MATCH DETAILS

TOWN: Feuer; James, Davis, Patterson, Thomas; Alexander, Waddock, Thorpe, Hughes; Grant (Guentchev 77 mins), Oldfield. Unused subs Linton and Showler.

BRENTFORD: Dearden; Hurdle, Ashby, Bates, Anderson; Abrahams (Hutchings 74 mins), Smith, McGhee, Bent; Asaba, Taylor. Unused sub Fernandes.

GOALS: 0-1 43 mins: Tony Thorpe penalty after the lively David Oldfield was brought down by Jamie Bates; 1-1 65 mins: Carl Asaba, after Steve Davis failed to tackle, looking as though he wanted Ian Feuere



DAVID OLDFIELD

to come out to collect the ball; 1-2 68 mins: Ceri Hughes low drive from the edge of the area, deflected to give "Tufty" Dearden no chance; 2-2, 80 mins: Jamie Bates header after the Town defence failed to deal with a cross by Lee Harvey; 3-2 88 mins: Robert Taylor glancing header from a right wing cross by Gus Hurdle.

OTHER STRIKES: Town: five saved and three wide; Brentford four saved, 11 wide and long-range lob y Robert Taylor dropped onto the top of the bar.

REFEREE: Steve Baines. Chesterfield. Had a pretty good game.

BOOKED: Brentford's Ian Anderson for a foul on Julian James; Ceri Hughes for a crude late tackle on Gus Hurdle.

ATTENDANCE: 5,404, boosted by a remarkably big following from Luton.

ENTERTAINMENT: Very good until the last ten minutes, when the Town threw it away after looking well in control and more than good enough to win.